

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 7. 1709.

IN the Case of Dr. *Sacheverell* now depending before the *House of Commons*; The Expectations of the People seem mighty intent, upon what Sentence shall be pass'd upon him personally— And some gratifie themselves with the Hopes of seeing him punish'd, in some Proportion to the Mischief he has really done, others to the Mischief he design'd to do.

But I leave such to their particular Passions; for my part, tho' I have as much Reason to desire Justice on him as any Body, Yet I am looking another Way, and, I hope it is the right Way; I had rather see the Crime punish'd, than the Man; I had rather see the Wound cur'd, than the Hand that gave it, cut off— And in this I am

sure, I pursue the general Good, whether I please private Resentment or no.

Now, that this may be more effectually and seasonably done— As Heaven has mov'd the *House of Commons* to resent it in the Man, so I cannot but most humbly apply my self to them to resent it as a Crime; and tho' it may be look'd upon as arrogant in me to address this Paper to so great an Assembly, yet as their Doors are open to the Grievances of all *Britain*, I doubt not, but their Ears will be also open to every modest Representation, especially such as are visibly pointed at the general Good— As, I hope, this shall appear to be.

Where-

Wherefore, with the humblest Submission to the Opinion of the *British* Parliament, and yet in a cheerful Confidence in their Justice, Love to their Country, and Zeal for the publick Peace, I take leave to address this Paper to the *Commons of Britain* assembled at this Time in Parliament, as follows.

The publick Peace of *Britain* (Right Honourable) having by the Wonders of Providence been preserv'd in the late Glorious Revolution—And the Religious as well as Civil Liberties of this Island been rescued from the ruinous Projects of Popery and Tyranny; it pleas'd G O D to direct the *Commons of England* by their Representatives assembled in Convention, (in Conjunction with the Nobility) to apply themselves to such future Establishments, as might effectually secure us from any subsequent Relapse into the Mischiefs of the former Reign.

To this Purpose they presented the Crown, upon the Abdication of the late King *James*, (whom Guilt and Fear would not permit to show his Face among us) to their Glorious Deliverer King *William*, and his Blessed Consort Queen *Mary*, then the next Protestant Heir in Succession—and entail'd it on her present Majesty, in Default of Heirs, without any Regard to the other Issue of King *James*, then alive, or to be born. By which celebrat'd Action, I humbly conceive, the Convention did the several Things following; whether immediately or consequentially, or both, is not material.

1. They effectually secur'd the Crown in the Hands of Protestants, having pass'd that never-to-be-forgotten Vote, which was sent up to the Lords, Jan. 22. 1688.—That it is inconsistent with the Constitution of this Protestant Nation to be govern'd by a Popish Prince; upon which Claim our Religion is now establish'd, and our Religious Rights are all founded and secur'd.
2. They asserted, the Rights of the People of *England*, assembled either in Parliament, or Convention, to dispose of the Crown, even in Barr of Here-

ditary Rights, that is, in Parliament Style, to limit the Succession of the Crown.

By which last Article, as I humbly suggest, all the Pretences of our Princes to an inherent Divine Right of Blood—and to an absolute uncondition'd Obedience in their Subjects, together with that modern Delusion of the Unlawfulness of Resistance, or Self-Defence, in Cases of Tyranny and Oppression, were entirely suppress'd, declar'd against, and disown'd.

These Things, as the Journals of your own House will abundantly inform You, and to which I humbly refer, receiv'd at divers Times, and in various Manners, all possible Sanction, both in the same assembled Convention, when afterwards turn'd into a Parliament, and in the several subsequent Parliaments to this Day, in the several Acts pass'd in both Kingdoms, for Recognition of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for taking the Association for Security of the Persons of the King and Queen, for farther Limitation of the Crown, for settling the Succession, and at last for uniting the two Kingdoms; to all which Acts I humbly refer. Every one of them, either expressly mentioning, or necessarily implying, the Right of the Parliament to limit the Succession of their Princes, and to declare and establish Conditions of the Peoples Obedience; and by all which Acts, the absurd Doctrines of Passive-Obedience and Non-Resistance are by undeniable Consequences exploded and rejected, as inconsistent with the Constitution of *Britain*.

Now, may it please this Honourable House to consider, That tho' as this happy Revolution was establish'd over the Bellies of all Gain-sayers, and that all Opposition to it was crush'd in both Kingdoms in its Beginning—yet it involv'd the Nation in a bloody, expensive, and a tedious War, with the King of *France*, the great Pattern of Tyranny in *Europe*, and to whom all the abdicated Tyrants of Christendom have fled for Succour—And as this terrible War has continu'd now above 20 Years, with a small Interval of an imperfect Peace—And as is usual in like Cases, has been attended with various

various Successes, especially before the late Series of Wonder began, in which GOD has signally bless'd her Majesty with an almost uninterrupted Success; so the great and powerful Enemies of our Peace abroad were not without their secret Friends among us, who, as Traytors in the Bosom of their Native Country, have by all Manner of Artifice, from Time to Time, endeavour'd to weaken the Hands of the establish'd Government, to encourage the Enemy, and on all Occasions assisted them, in open Invasions or secret Treachery, to attempt the Restoration of Slavery and Bondage upon their Country.

It would be too tedious to trouble your Honours with a Recapitulation of the several Attempts of Traytors to the Establishment; in order to ruin the Constitution, thus happily establish'd; such as *French Armies in Ireland, French Fleets, French Assassinations, and French Invasions*; in all which it is manifest, great Numbers among us have joyn'd, or have been ready to joyn their Assistance.

The eminent Success, GOD has bless'd us with, *not at all to lessen the Glorious Instruments employ'd*, has hitherto, Blessed be GOD, happily prevented them, and they have seem'd to despair of Success in their open and violent Attempts upon the publick Tranquility——And have therefore with too successful Subtilty apply'd themselves to the no less fatal Method of dividing and disuniting us at home, in which the Emissaries of *France and Jacobitism*, have so unhappily prevail'd, That to the Grief of all sincere Lovers of their Country, we see her Majesty's good Subjects daily perplex'd, with hateful Divisions, odious Names of Parties, and a Kind of Strife, inconsistent with the Safety and Peace of the Constitution, as establish'd by the unquestion'd Authority of Parliament——We see this Strife openly encourag'd and supported, and with unusual and lamentable Animosity encreas'd by the Artifice of those, who profess their Enmity to the Revolution, and openly denying her Majesty's Rightful Title to the Crown, founded upon Parliamentary Limitation, dare in the Face of the Government, and while they

enjoy its Protection, profess their Adherence to the Claim of a contemptible Pretender.

Others, not so directly, but altogether as fatally, and tending to the same End, with subtle Desires to divide and amuse the People, by Preaching, Writing, and Printing, endeavour to revive the said absurd and exploded Doctrines of *Non-Resistance* and absolute *uncondition'd Obedience*, as Things the People of *England* ought to think themselves oblig'd by——which tho' in themselves of no Force, yet manifestly tend to unravel the Constitution——to invalidate the Queen's Title to the Crown, and to destroy the Legal Authority of Parliament in the Nation——An eminent Proof of which is now depending before the House.

The humble Motion of the Author of this, in Consequence of what is above represented, he begs Leave to offer in the next Paper.

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